

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 16 MAY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY.

Sarlnews regrets to announce the passing away of Brian Fordred, ZS6A, on Thursday evening 6 May 2004. Brian was sitting watching TV and fell asleep. When his wife went to wake him up, he had passed away. His passing was sudden, unexpected, but peaceful. Our deepest sympathies to his wife, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

RESULTS OF PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

TWO-METRE REPEATER IN SWAZILAND

HAM RADIO-CARRYING ROCKET HOPES TO REACH SPACE

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

RESULTS OF PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

We are pleased to announce that there were participants from all six divisions in the contest and that a total of 68 logs were received. Here are the divisional analogue winners with their points scored.

50 MHz: ZS1NAZ - 2 691, ZR2DX - 5 010, ZR6ZL/4 - 20 810, ZS6WB - 854.
(Field) ZR2GB and ZS2KW - 5 618.

144 MHz: ZS1NAZ - 650, ZS2CLI - 29 865, ZR3CDK - 241, ZR6ZL/4 - 17 565, ZS6WB - 3 932. (Field) ZR2GB and ZS2KW - 44 350. (QRP) ZR2GJ/1 - 360, ZR5DK - 700.

432 MHz: ZS1NAZ - 632, ZS2PE - 1 050, ZR3CDK - 241, ZR6ZL/4 - 4 236. (Field) ZR2GB and ZS2KW - 2810.

Here are the digital overall winners and runners-up with points scored.

50 MHz: ZS1NAZ - 107 562, ZS6WB - 100 488.

144 MHz: ZS6WB - 66 070, ZS1NAZ - 61 884.

432 MHz: ZS6WB - 1 316, ZS4SS and ZS6ANZ - 1 008.

Longest distances achieved in kilometres.

50 MHz: Analogue ZR1EL to ZR6ZL/4 - 1 179 km. Digital ZS1NAZ to ZS6WB - 1 305km.

144 MHz: Analogue ZS2AH to ZS5LEE - 450 km. Digital V51E to ZS6WB - 1 406 km.

432 MHz: Analogue ZR2DX and ZS2PE to ZR2GB and ZS2KW - 248 km. Digital ZS4SS and ZS4ANZ to ZS6WB - 127 km.

1296 MHz: Analogue ZS6HS to ZS6EGB - 18 km.

TWO-METRE REPEATER IN SWAZILAND

Andy Cory, 3DA0TM, Vice Chairman of the Radio Society of Swaziland says the 2-metre repeater in Swaziland works on the frequency of 145,650 MHz with a 600 kHz split. It is situated at Mhlambanyatsi, which is about 25 km south west of Mbabane. The simplex frequency used is 145,500 MHz.

Andy says he hopes this information is of some use, and that they always look forward to welcoming and chatting to visiting Radio Hams from South Africa.

RADIO AMATEUR'S EXAMINATION

The first RAE for this year takes place this coming Thursday evening, 20th May. Sarlnews wishes strength and success to all the candidates. Remember, there is a beautiful prize to compete for and all successful candidates will also immediately receive their callsigns. We look forward to soon hearing you on the air and to enjoy this wonderful hobby.

ZS4BFN AT HOBBIES FAIR

Over the weekend of 22 and 23 May the Bloemfontein Radio Amateur Club will be setting up a station at the Kopano Nokeng Hobbies Fair, near the Bloemfontein airport. The station will operate using the club call sign ZS4BFN on HF phone and possibly digital modes.

HAM RADIO-CARRYING ROCKET HOPES TO REACH SPACE

This interesting news item comes from the ARRL newsletter.

An amateur rocket team is hoping to send a 21 foot (6,4 m) tall rocket carrying a ham radio avionics package into the fringes of space. The launch by the Civilian Space Xploration Team (CSXT) could occur as early as Monday, May 17, from Black Rock Desert in Nevada. A CSXT try to reach space in 2002 ended some three seconds after launch when the rocket's engine exploded. Avionics Team Leader Eric Knight, KB1EHE, says CSXT has since rebounded from that devastating blow with a newer, bigger vehicle.

In terms of Amateur Radio, the GoFast rocket, named for a corporate sponsor, will transmit telemetry on the 33 cm amateur band and Amateur TV at 2,4 GHz using a high-quality color camera. The avionics also incorporate multiple global positioning system (GPS) units to record the vehicle's precise location and flight path, redundant data acquisition and storage systems, and a variety of data sensors.

Once the rocket goes up, appropriately equipped amateurs may be able to receive signals from the approximately 2 W transmitters onboard, even at some distance from the launch site, Knight says. Specific frequencies had not been selected by week's end but these frequencies will in any case not be heard in South Africa. In addition, the team will set up a special event HF station at the launch site with the call sign K7R—"for rocket," Knight says. Look for K7R in the General class phone portions of 20 and 40 meters.

Plans call for the solid-fuel rocket to zip upward from the desert floor and reach a speed of more than 4 000 MPH in about 9 seconds. Assuming all goes well, the suborbital vehicle will, on its own momentum, attain an altitude of 100 km or 62 statute miles—high enough to be considered "space"—linger there for a couple of minutes then arc back to Earth some 26 miles down range. If successful it would mark the first amateur rocket launch into space.

There's more information on the CSXT Web site, www.civilianspace.com.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS Kobus , ZS6KOB, says we will now have to accept that DX conditions for the next few years will not be what we would like to experience - but the wheel will well turn around at about 2007. The sunspot number really rode the see-saw during the last few days. Thursday it was up to 48,5 as against 31,5 of the previous week. It increased somewhat and it is expected that it will continue to do so till over the weekend. Propagation conditions were generally weak but with good openings for short periods. The winter is now at hand and the bands will start to close early evening already. Use the 20 m band especially towards the East and to Europe. Conditions may be better towards the North than towards the East. Solar cycle 23 (the present one) started during May 1996 and peaked during April 2000 with a sunspot number of 120,8. It is expected that the present cycle will reach its low during 2006 and that the new cycle will peak during 2010.

ContaACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE ct the ZS4BFN special

station at the Kopano Nokeng Hobbies Fair during the weekend 22/23 May.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX